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LETTER DATED 4 JUNE 1996 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 1053 (1996) on 23 April 1996, I addressed a letter to President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, seeking his reaction to the measures envisaged by the Council in paragraph 7 of its resolution, including the possible deployment of United Nations observers in the airfields in eastern Zaire and at other transportation points along the Zaire-Rwanda border.

In a letter addressed to me on 29 May 1996, President Mobutu requested that United Nations observers be deployed to North and South Kivu for the purpose of exercising surveillance over the flow of goods through the airports of Goma and Bukavu, and of monitoring the movement of persons along the common borders of Zaire with Rwanda and Burundi. A copy of President Mobutu's letter is attached for the information of the members of the Council.

In the light of the position adopted by the President of Zaire, and as requested by the Security Council, I am also consulting other States neighbouring Rwanda with regard to these measures, and will inform the Council of their reaction in due course.

It is also my intention to dispatch a technical mission to the area to collect the necessary information and prepare a report on the basis of which I would submit appropriate recommendations to the Security Council for the eventual deployment of United Nations observers. Such deployment will of course be possible only if the required financial resources are made available.

I should be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

Annex

[Original: French]

Letter dated 29 May 1996 from the President of the Republic of Zaire addressed to the Secretary-General

As you know, Zaire generously opened its borders to refugees following the outbreak of the ethnic conflicts in the Great Lakes region. The large number of these refugees and their chaotic dispersal in our territory have led to a climate of insecurity, unprecedented destruction of the environment, and a sharp decline in the economic, health and educational infrastructures in eastern Zaire, to the detriment of the well-being of the local population.

In spite of the sacrifices and efforts that have been made up to now without the support of the international community, with the exception of assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Zaire is regularly subjected to unjustified accusations regarding arms trafficking, border incursions and the treatment of refugees.

In the light of this situation and pursuant to my meeting on 21 May 1996 at Gbadolite with a high-level delegation headed by Mr. George Moose, United States Under-Secretary of State for African Affairs, as well as the meeting held at Geneva on 26 May 1996 with the former President of the United States of America, Mr. Jimmy Carter, it was agreed that I should write to you to request the dispatch of United Nations observers to North and South Kivu in Zaire.

The mission of these United Nations observers would essentially be to exercise continuous surveillance over the flow of goods through the airports of Goma in North Kivu and Bukavu in South Kivu. They will also have the task of monitoring the movements of persons along the common borders of Zaire with Rwanda and Burundi.

I trust that you will understand the reason for my request, the sole purpose of which is to establish a climate of confidence in the Great Lakes region and promote a better understanding among the members of the international community of the situation in eastern Zaire.

(Signed) MOBUTU SESE SEKO KUKU NGBENDU WA ZA BANGA